

Anacostia Access Planning Study
Scope of Work
August 2003

Purpose

The Anacostia Access Study is the next step in studying the South Capitol Street Corridor, and continues the efforts begun in the South Capitol Gateway and Corridor Improvement Study.

Study Area

This study will undertake analysis necessary to identify improvements in the study area to improve connectivity to NHS routes, including South Capitol Street (north of the Suitland Pkwy), Suitland Parkway, I-295, and the Anacostia Metrorail station.

The study will also identify short term improvements that can be accomplished before major reconstruction of the Poplar Point interchange which will improve NHS access, as well as provide remediation for high accident intersections in the study area.

Description of Work to be performed

This planning study will identify solutions for the following:

- a) The interchange of South Capitol Street, Suitland Parkway, and I-295 is redundant, inefficient, and fails to provide direct access from I-295 southbound to South Capitol Street northbound. Without this direct connection, the southern gateway to the city will not be complete. Elimination of the redundancies and excess pavement will free up acres of land for public green space.
- b) Bicycle and pedestrian access throughout the study area is inconsistent and substandard. Access to and from the Anacostia Metrorail station and parking garage is difficult and dangerous. Pedestrian fatalities at Suitland Parkway and Firth Sterling Ave contribute to making it the 8th highest accident rate location in the city.
- c) Access to the NHS routes via Firth Sterling Ave, Martin Luther King Ave, Howard Rd, is inadequate and inter-relates to the interchange configuration. Although some of the work at these intersections may be included in the short-term improvements, they must be analyzed in concert with the NHS connectivity. Particularly, Howard Rd currently serves as a connector between I-295 and South Capitol St. Firth Sterling and Martin Luther King are important in their roadway connections to the NHS routes, as well as access to the Anacostia Metrorail station.
- d) Intersections along South Capitol Street, west of the river, were included in the *South Capitol Gateway and Corridor Improvement Study* (SCG). Traffic data and interchange analysis will allow the concepts addressed in the SCG study to be

further refined and analyzed. The concept of roundabouts has been discussed. This study will analyze the feasibility of roundabouts with specific traffic volumes, and address the related issue of bicycle/pedestrian access. This will include analysis of an underpass at M St, or an at grade intersection.

- e) This study will provide a summary of all the related work being done by DDOT and other agencies within the study area.
- f) Many concepts are being considered for the design of the South Capitol Street bridge over the Anacostia River. Because the bridge will be a center of the urban design and be an anchor for the architectural theme of the corridor and even the entire AWI, it is a critical element of planning for the area. The consultant will bring in technical expertise from an internationally recognized expert in bridge design.

Background

I-295, Suitland Parkway, and the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge on South Capitol Street, which are all on the NHS, meet in an interchange in the Anacostia area in the District of Columbia. The interchange is on Poplar Point, near Anacostia Park and the Anacostia Metrorail station. Although a large percentage of land on Poplar Point and around the Metrorail station is devoted to transportation uses, access is surprisingly limited and confusing. Connections are incomplete between the NHS segments as well as onto and off of those segments.

These transportation facilities have significant impacts, both positive and negative, on the surrounding area. Poplar Point is a key element of the Anacostia waterfront and the portal to one of the approaches to Washington's Monumental Core. Poplar Point's poor access and inappropriate design are the result of the mismatched and missing ramps from the NHS links in the area. These conditions prevent this area from fulfilling its potential as a civic, cultural, and recreational resource and coincidentally restrict access. Much of Poplar Point is given over to roadways that block rather than enhance accessibility to the NHS, the neighborhood, Anacostia Park, and the Anacostia River. The existing transportation facilities are functionally deficient, confusing to use, and unattractive. Coincidentally, modifying those facilities to improve access to the NHS will help to achieve the vision for a revitalized waterfront that is reconnected to the city around it and mitigate the negative effect these facilities have had on the neighborhood since they were constructed.

The Anacostia Access Transportation Study, a concurrent study in the same project area, will produce the engineering and traffic analysis that much of this planning will be based on.

Relationship with Other Plans

AWI and South Capitol Gateway and Corridor Improvement Study

This study will augment the efforts already underway in the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative and the *South Capitol Gateway and Corridor Improvement Study*. The Anacostia Waterfront Initiative, an effort of District of Columbia's Office of Planning (OP) in cooperation with other signatories of the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative Memorandum of Understanding, is developing plans for the revitalization of the Anacostia River. DDOT is performing the South Capitol Gateway and Corridor Improvement Study to identify methods to transform South Capitol Street into an appropriate gateway to the nation's capital. Both of these activities have identified the need to improve access by simplifying the highway system and thus free up space at Poplar Point for other purposes.

Other studies in the study area

This study will complement other planning underway that will affect the interchange between I-295, Suitland Parkway, and the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge and the Anacostia Metrorail station area, including Poplar Point. The DC Water and Sewer Authority's Combined Sewer System Long-Term Control Plan defines the need for modified and expanded sewer system components; it creates the opportunity to coordinate their design and construction with upgraded transportation facilities in the Anacostia area. The Anacostia Park General Management Plan, being prepared by the National Park Service, is defining the steps necessary to maintain and enhance the quality of the park. The update of the DC Bicycle Master Plan is identifying needs for expanded and improved bicycle facilities throughout the District. DDOT is about to begin the Anacostia Gateway Transportation Study. WMATA's DC Transit Alternatives Analysis is developing a plan for a transit starter line east of the Anacostia River. DC Office of Planning is conducting a study of transit-oriented development in Old Town Anacostia and access to the Anacostia Metrorail station. DCOP is also continuing the St. Elizabeths Framework Plan, which will address access to the St. Elizabeth's campus from Suitland Pkwy, I-295, and Metrorail.

The study will include continuing public outreach efforts to ensure that the communications begun in the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative and the South Capitol Gateway and Corridor Improvement Study will be maintained and expanded.

Summary Table of Studies Underway

South Capitol Gateway and Corridor Improvement Study	DDOT	2002-03
Gateway Transportation Study	DDOT	2003
Gateway Government Ctr	DDOT/EOM	2003-04
DC Bicycle Master Plan	DDOT	2003
DC Transit Alternatives Study	DDOT/WMATA	2003-04
Anacostia Park General Management Plan	NPS	2003
Combined Sewer System Long-Term	DCWASA	2003

Control Plan		
St. Elizabeth's Framework Plan	OP	2003-04
Old Town Anacostia Study	OP	2004

Related studies proposed for the future:

South Capitol Street Bridge Alignment Study
 South Capitol Corridor Tunnel alignment and feasibility study
 Middle Anacostia Crossings Study

Study Area

The study area, shown in Figure 1, includes South Capitol Street from I-395 to Suitland Parkway, including intersections; I-295 from Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave. to Firth Sterling, including the intersections at MLK Ave, Howard Rd. and Firth Sterling; and Suitland Pkwy from MLK Ave. to South Capitol St., including the intersections at MLK and Firth Sterling.

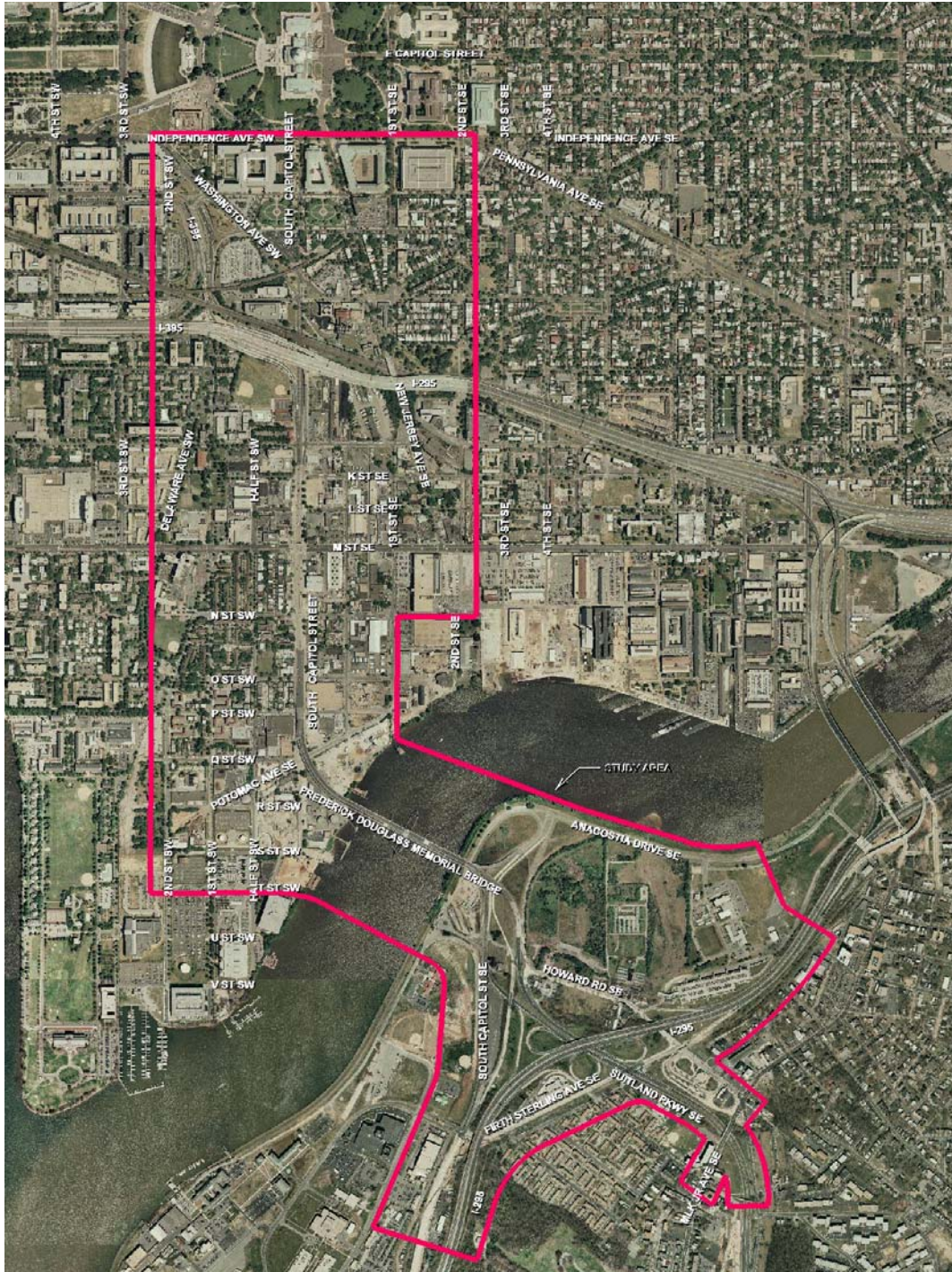


Figure 1. Study Area

Scope of Services

The consultant will conduct the following tasks: (1) development of transportation system concepts to enhance the NHS, (2) creation of a suggested funding plan for transportation improvements in the Anacostia area, and (3) preparation of reports that describes the South Capitol Gateway and Corridor Improvement Study and the more-detailed project concepts developed in this study.

Project Management (All Tasks)

Interagency Coordinating Committee. With the assistance of the District Department of Transportation, the consultant will convene monthly meetings of an interagency coordinating committee, continuing the agency communications and involvement that occurred in the South Capitol Gateway and Corridor Improvement Study. The committee will review progress on the study and provide advice as the project moves forward. The consultant will prepare advance notification of meetings and will distribute meeting notes.

Monthly Invoices. The consultant will provide monthly invoices to the DDOT project manager for approval and timely payment.

Monthly Progress Reports. Along with invoices, the consultant will prepare and submit monthly progress reports to the DDOT project manager. Each report will outline the task accomplishments, meetings held, status of deliverables, expected activities for the next period, issues for resolution and the responsible party, and problems and their disposition from the previous period.

Task 1: Transportation System Connectivity Improvement Concepts

The consultant will develop potential functional and urban design concepts for transportation system connectivity improvements to upgrade access to the NHS and to provide missing links on the system.

A. The concepts will include the following specific areas:

- A replacement for the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge. Concepts will address and develop the engineering design parameters and options, then overlay these options with the urban design implications.
- Grade separation of Suitland Parkway and Firth Sterling Avenue, including the adjacent railroad right-of-way. This grade separation would improve safety at what is now the highest-fatality intersection in the District and provide for coordination with the DC Transit Alternatives Analysis, which is analyzing transit on the railroad right-of-way.
- New interchange at Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue and Suitland Parkway. The purpose of the concepts will be to provide direct access from the NHS to the neighborhoods and the commercial areas along MLK and Howard Road.
- Intersection of Howard Road and Firth Sterling Avenue. These concepts will

provide for safe and efficient traffic operations and improved transit bus operations.

- New intersection of Howard Road and South Capitol Street. These concepts will be especially important in recreating and expanding the local street grid and providing for improved access and connections to the NHS from the area.
 - Connections between the NHS and local streets on Poplar Point that provide for good access to neighborhoods and parklands and separate through traffic from local traffic.
 - Potomac Avenue-South Capitol Street intersection. These concepts will include several alternatives at this location, such as a signalized intersection, a roundabout, and a traffic circle.
 - M Street-South Capitol Street intersection. These concepts will include the potential removal of the present underpass based upon conclusions from a traffic analysis.
 - Washington Avenue from South Capitol Street to Independence Avenue. These concepts will be developed and reviewed in cooperation with the Architect of the Capitol.
 - New Jersey Avenue, SE from the Capitol to M Street, SE. These concepts will address HOPE VI, AOC, WMATA and other development interests.
 - A transit line alignment through the study area, including Poplar Point, Buzzard Point, Southeast Federal Center, and New Jersey Avenue. East of the Anacostia River, the alignment would connect the railroad right-of-way to a new bridge over the Anacostia River. On the other side of the river, the alignment would connect the bridge to the vicinity of the Capitol and allow for connection to a potential circulator.
- B. The design concepts will be reviewed to identify the characteristics of each, including potential construction costs, logical phasing, impacts on traffic patterns and surrounding neighborhoods, potential land acquisition, and any required relocations.
- C. This task will include two public meetings. One at the beginning of the task will allow for public comments and suggestions on needs and opportunities. Although DDOT has obtained many such suggestions through other means, an additional opportunity for public comment will provide additional useful information. A second public meeting at the conclusion of this task will provide the opportunity for review and comment on the design concepts. Both meetings will be coordinated with the public involvement process for the Anacostia Access Transportation Engineering and Design Study.
- D. The design concepts and their related characteristics will be described in a technical design concept report.

Task Deliverables: Anacostia Access Transportation System Connectivity Improvement Concept Technical Report, 50 copies and an electronic file of the report. The report will be produced using Word software, and graphics will be in .tif format.

Task 2: Funding Plan

- A. The consultant will assist DDOT in the compilation of a summary of the funds available to support transportation improvements in the Anacostia area.
- B. The consultant will review the project concepts and their conceptual cost estimates to identify a draft plan that would apply the funds to a set of projects in the study area.
- C. The consultant will review the draft plan with DDOT and revise it in response to DDOT's comments.
- D. The consultant will prepare a technical memorandum that presents a funding plan.

Task Deliverables: Anacostia Access Funding Plan, 50 copies and an electronic file of the report. The report will be produced using Word software, and graphics will be in .tif format.

Task 3: Project Reports

- A. The consultant will prepare a revised version of the final report of the South Capitol Gateway and Improvement Study, responding to comments from the Federal Highway Administration, the study Interagency Coordinating Committee, and the public.
- B. The consultant will prepare a summary report that summarizes the information developed in this study, the Anacostia Access Transportation Engineering and Design Study, and the South Capitol Gateway study.
- C. The consultant will produce a monograph on the history of the study area and the implications of potential transportation and urban design changes. The monograph will be an appendix to the study report. The monograph will describe the objectives established in previous plans and discuss the ways in which past changes in the study area have deviated from these objectives, leading to the present problems. It will identify the opportunities for the potential changes in the study area to better meet the objectives.
- D. A third public meeting will be held to present the information in the summary report for public review and comment.

Task Deliverables:

- South Capitol Gateway and Corridor Improvement Study report, 200 copies and an electronic file of the report.
- South Capitol Street Gateway and Corridor Improvement Study poster plan, 400 copies and an electronic file of the poster plan.
- Anacostia Access Summary Report review draft, 150 copies and an electronic file of the report.
- Anacostia Access Summary Report, 150 copies, 50 CDs, and an electronic file of the report.

These reports will be produced using Word software, and graphics will be in .tif format.

Deliverables Summary

- Anacostia Access Transportation System Connectivity Improvement Concept Technical Report, 50 copies and an electronic file of the report.
- Anacostia Access Funding Plan, 50 copies and an electronic file of the report.
- South Capitol Gateway and Corridor Improvement Study report, 200 copies and an electronic file of the report.
- South Capitol Street Gateway and Corridor Improvement Study poster plan, 400 copies and an electronic file of the poster plan.
- Anacostia Access Summary Report review draft, 150 copies and an electronic file of the report.
- Anacostia Access Summary Report, 150 copies, 50 CDs, and an electronic file of the report.

Meeting Summary

- 3 public meetings to gather information and review concepts
- Monthly interagency coordinating committee meetings
- Weekly coordination meetings of the consultant and DDOT.
- Coordination meetings with the ongoing studies noted above.

Project Schedule

1. Tasks 1 through 3 are to be completed by January 1, 2004, as shown in the attached project schedule.